

October 20, 2003

Commissioners:

I copied some words off a song I heard on the radio show "Prairie Home Companion" yesterday, which I here submit as a comment about a perceived trend which could affect the outcome of 03-104.

... got NPR

Here's what I found:

Real news — hardly a trace.

It's one damn marathon marketplace.

DOW's up, NAZDEC's in the cellar,

And NPR sold out to Rockerfella.

Hostile takeovers,

Real hostile.

Well, I'm hearin' about the anti-trust

And all the day-traders that bit the dust.

Mergers, buyouts and acquisitions,

Roll down crooks in high positions,

Wheelers, dealers, and CEO's

Fired and paid off through the nose,

Buying yachts and fancy homes

Like they did with the money from the Savings & Loans,

And I get pissed ...

Off, that is.

Well, it's dot com this, and dot com that,

And the underwriters are a gettin' fat

On airwaves stole from you and me

By a bunch of thieves called the FCC.

They don't give a damn what we want or need.

They've all caved in to corporate greed

And sold us out to the ruling class.

Well, the whole damn bunch can dot my com.

Family show, folks.

FCC says, watch your language.

Of course, I don't take a little ditty all that seriously. However, it does express in song some subliminal fears some of us hold. "It's one damn marathon marketplace" is reminiscent of Commissioner Kathlene Abernathy's Remarks to the United PowerLine Council Annual Conference, Sept. 22, 2003, "I want consumers to have a ... robustly competitive and diversified marketplace, something I would call broadband Nirvana." But the songwriter calls it "one damn marathon marketplace."

"Wheelers, dealers, and CEO's/Fired and paid off through the

nose,/Buying yachts and fancy homes/Like they did with the money from the Savings & Loans" sounds an awful lot like what happened to the scheme of inventor William "Luke" Stewart, for conveying broadband data over electric power lines as reported in **The Electric Kool-Aid Bandwidth Test**,¹ By Evan Ratliff:

The broadband test scheduled for March 15 was delayed month after month. ... Even by the standards of the dotcom boom, the founders' spending habits had been extraordinary. Stewart often flew by private jet and would commonly offer prospective employees double the salaries they requested. Corporate checks, wire transfers, and credit card records show that Stewart spent \$350,000-plus on jewelry and more than \$50,000 on sound equipment. But the "software gurus" described to me by Blair had never been hired. Over three years, in fact, Media Fusion employed only one engineer besides Stewart.

I mean that the companies wanting to deploy BPL don't seem to have acquired any actual evidence from rf engineers how it could be done without massive interference to over-the-air users of all that spectrum, nor have they conducted tests to demonstrate BPL could be implemented interference-free. And yet a lot of investment money has been acquired.

We see the FCC all excited over this possible imminent demise of the usefulness of the HF & low VHF spectrum for its many tenants not the least of which is us hams with our relatively low power levels, and our sensitive receivers and antennas. How could this verse not strike a chord? "Well, it's dot com this, and dot com that,/And the underwriters are a gettin' fat/On airwaves stole from you and me/By a bunch of thieves called the FCC./They don't give a damn what we want or need./They've all caved in to corporate greed/And sold us out to the ruling class."

I'll watch my language and not quote the last.

Respectfully Submitted,
Earl S. Gosnell III

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